
DIGEST

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HB 330 Original

2022 Regular Session

Travis Johnson

Abstract: Creates the La. Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program.

Proposed law establishes the La. Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program to support the growth and development of the industrial hemp industry in La.

Proposed law defines the following terms:

- (1) "Board" means the La. Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board.
- (2) "Commissioner" means the La. commissioner of agriculture and forestry.
- (3) "Industrial hemp" means the same as defined in present law.
- (4) "Industrial hemp educational program" means any event focused on improving a participant's understanding of the industrial hemp industry.
- (5) "Industrial hemp facility" means any facility used to produce or process industrial hemp.
- (6) "Industrial hemp industry member" means any person with an interest and background in the requirements of producing, handling, processing, or selling industrial hemp or products produced from industrial hemp.
- (7) "Industrial hemp research" means any scholarly activity conducted to collect scientific data utilizing experimental design as authorized under this Chapter.
- (8) "Program" means the La. Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program.
- (9) "Promotion of the industrial hemp industry" means the development of a comprehensive marketing plan for the industrial hemp industry, which may include a website, social media, and an advertising program.

Proposed law creates the La. Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Advisory Board within the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.

Proposed law provides that the board shall consist of 11 members appointed by the commissioner as follows:

- (1) One member who is engaged in the production of industrial hemp or industrial hemp seed appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
- (2) One member who is appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the La. State Univ. Agricultural Ctr.
- (3) One member who is appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the Southern Univ. Agricultural Ctr.
- (4) One member appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development.
- (5) One member appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development.
- (6) One member who is a licensed grower of industrial hemp.
- (7) One member who is a licensed processor of industrial hemp.
- (8) One member who is a consumer of industrial hemp.
- (9) One member who is a representative of the La. industrial hemp industry.
- (10) One member appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the La. Black Farmers Cannabis and Hemp Assoc.
- (11) One member appointed from a list of three persons nominated by the Morehouse Parish Black Farmers and Landowners Assoc.

Proposed law requires the commissioner or his designee to serve as an ex officio member in an advisory capacity only.

Proposed law provides for the organization and administration of the board, including provisions for nominations, the length of terms, vacancies, quorum requirements, expulsions, meeting requirements, and appointment of officers.

Proposed law specifies that the board should be representative of the state's population by race and gender to ensure diversity.

Proposed law prohibits members of the board from receiving any compensation.

Proposed law requires the board to:

- (1) Advise the commissioner on the development and maintenance of the La. Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program.

- (2) Maintain a permanent record of its proceedings.
- (3) Submit an annual report of its activities to the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development by Jan. 31st of each year.

Proposed law authorizes the board to:

- (1) Provide information to governmental entities upon request on subjects of concern to the industrial hemp industry and collaborate with the state or federal government on the development and administration of the program.
- (2) Cooperate with any local, state, regional, or national organization or agency engaged in activities consistent with the objectives of the program.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to:

- (1) Adopt such rules and regulations, as are necessary to administer the program, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
- (2) Enter into contracts or other agreements to accomplish any purpose authorized by proposed law, including advertising, education, marketing, promotion, research, or services.

Proposed law authorizes the commissioner to accept and expend monies from any source, including gifts, contributions, donations, state appropriations, and federal grants, and to accept and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.

Proposed law requires all funds made available to the commissioner be expended only to effectuate the purposes of proposed law, including the following uses:

- (1) To attract additional business associated with the industrial hemp industry to La. including processors.
- (2) To develop and promote La. industrial hemp brands or marketing campaigns.
- (3) To aid in the development of a coordinated research plan designed to develop higher quality industrial hemp seeds and plants best suited for cultivation within the state, new and improved uses for industrial hemp, and best management practices.
- (4) To develop educational programs and disseminate educational materials about industrial hemp.
- (5) To support the enhancement and maintenance of public-use industrial hemp facilities, specifically those used for the purposes of promotion and research.

- (6) To promote activities, facilities, events, and the needs of the La. industrial hemp industry.
- (7) To contract for scientific research with accredited postsecondary education institutions or similar educational institutions and industrial hemp licensees authorized to conduct industrial hemp research under present law that will assist in carrying out the purposes of the program, including industrial hemp best management practices.

Proposed law provides for the transfer of the program to the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry as provided by law.

(Adds R.S. 3:1491-1496 and R.S. 36:629(L)(4))